

# EXTENDING THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

## A preliminary assessment of landmarks and points of interest for a Champlain Valley extension of the North Country Trail



## Middlebury College Environmental Studies Senior Seminar

**Prepared for the  
Middlebury Area Land Trust**

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## Background on the North Country Trail

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The North Country Trail (NCT) will provide an unbroken footpath connecting the Missouri River in North Dakota to the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Covering some 4,600 miles, it will provide opportunities for recreation, scenic views, and historical education across the northern United States. The trail is one of seventeen that make up the National Trails System (NTS). Twelve of these trails are administered by the National Park Service (NPS), four by the Forest Service (USFS), and one by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Some trails, such as the Trail of Tears, the Oregon Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail, are reminders of a history that is deeply rooted in foot travel. Others, such as the NCT, the Appalachian Trail (AT), and the Continental Divide Trail, focus primarily on providing access to the wide variety of scenic landscapes that the country has to offer. Overall, the NTS provides a valuable link between Americans and the U.S. landscape by encouraging an appreciation of scenery and history during their travel adventures.

The NTS began with the Appalachian Trail (AT), conceived in 1921. Although the AT was completed in 1937, it faced continual threats from land development and conflicting uses. Therefore, in 1948, legislation was proposed to make it a protected national trail, but it ultimately failed because it was a regional political issue and could not muster enough national support in Congress. A decade and a half later, in the mid-1960s, this problem was addressed by the inclusion of the Pacific Crest Trail in the legislation, thus laying the groundwork for a national system of trails. The new legislative package also supported studies for the creation of other national scenic trails. The North Country Trail was first proposed in 1965 by the U.S. Forest Service as part of its “Nationwide System of Trails Study.” The Northern Country Trail, as it was then called, would have begun in the boreal forests of northern Maine and ended in Minnesota. This proposal was included in a 1966 Department of the Interior publication called “Trails for America,” which led to

the National Trails System Act of 1968 that was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.<sup>1</sup>

Congress passed the 1968 National Trails System Act in order "to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population" and "to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation."<sup>2</sup> However, the Act did not specifically designate a NCT corridor, so further legislation was required to define the boundaries of the trail. The first conceptual study was published in June of 1975, and identified a ten-mile-wide planning corridor within which the trail could eventually be located. Unfortunately, between 1975 and 1980 Congress was unable to pass a law authorizing development of the trail. By this time, the overall concept for the NCT had changed. The original design connected the NCT with the AT by way of the Long Trail (LT) in Vermont. However, Vermont's Green Mountain Club (GMC), sponsors and caretakers of the LT, worried about increased use of this popular footpath, and lobbied to keep it unconnected to the NCT.<sup>3</sup> (Currently though, the GMC has expressed interest in revisiting the idea of connecting the NCT with the AT utilizing the LT, and is participating in preliminary planning.<sup>4</sup>) In response, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (which merged with the National Park Service in 1981) moved the eastern terminus of the trail to Crown Point, NY, allowing a potential future connection with the AT. On March 5, 1980, President Carter signed Congress' package of amendments to the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, authorizing the NCT (see Appendix B, Figure 1).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wes Boyd, "A Memorandum of History of the North Country National Scenic Trail and the North Country Trail Association," October 4, 1998, *North Country Trail Association*, <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/ncta/history.htm> (accessed November 19, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> National Trails System Act, January 11, 2007, National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html> (accessed November 15, 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Boyd, "Memorandum of History of the North Country National Scenic Trail," <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/ncta/history.htm> (accessed November 19, 2007).

<sup>4</sup> Peter Antos-Ketchum, organizational meeting between NPS, NCTA, MALT, and GMC, December 4, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Boyd, "Memorandum of History of the North Country National Scenic Trail," <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/ncta/history.htm> (accessed November 19, 2007).

Although the NCT was now authorized, further government action progressed slowly in the early 1980s. As part of a major consolidation of the Federal government, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was abolished and the Midwest Region of the NPS took responsibility for the NCT. In September 1982, the NPS adopted their Comprehensive Plan for the North Country National Scenic Trail. This plan defined the NCT as a “non-motorized multiple use” and “off-road” trail, designations that affect the location and character of trail segments. Defining and acquiring access to land parcels was considered a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local governments, private organizations, and landowners. The large number of diverse stakeholders created many challenges for cooperation and communication, especially as different parties proposed segments and tried to create a single corridor. Slowly but surely, more segments of the trail were certified, with 103.3 miles secured in 1988, another 90.0 miles in 1989, and 75.8 in 1990. By the spring of 1998 almost 1,500 miles of the NCT had been certified, but nine and a half years later, in October 2007, only 300 more miles had been added, bringing the total to 1,800 off-road miles.<sup>6</sup> Remembering that the trail was supposed to traverse 4,600 miles, at least 2,800 remain uncertified; therefore, in the 40 years since the NCT was authorized only 39% has been completed.

In the early 1980s, soon after the Midwest Region of the NPS adopted the NCT, Lance Field founded the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) as a corps of volunteers dedicated to developing and coordinating the trail.<sup>7</sup> Nationally, the NCT is administered by the NPS Superintendent in charge of the NCT, Tom Gilbert, with assistance from the NCTA. The NCTA provides valuable assistance as an intermediary between the NPS and local organizations that acquire and manage lands for NCT use; many local organizations receive trail ideas and specifications from the NPS and NCTA and then implement them at the local scale, where the trail is actually built and maintained.

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<sup>6</sup> Boyd, “Memorandum of History of the North Country National Scenic Trail,” <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/ncta/history.htm> (accessed November 19, 2007).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Once the separate trail segments are connected and completed, the NCT will comprise a significant portion of the NTS. Today the system consists of the following trails: the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NST) and Pacific Crest NST authorized in 1968; the Continental Divide NST, and the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, Iditarod, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails (NHT) authorized in 1978; the North Country NST, Overmountain Victory NHT, and Ice Age NST authorized in 1980; the Florida NST, Potomac Heritage NST, and Natchez Trace NST authorized in 1983; the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT authorized in 1986; the Santa Fe NHT and Trail of Tears NHT authorized in 1987; the Juan Bautistade Anza NHT authorized in 1990; the California NHT and Pony Express NHT authorized in 1992; and the Selma to Montgomery NHT authorized in 1996.<sup>8</sup>

In 1996 Ronald Strickland, of Scenic Trails Research, proposed a further extension of the national trails system; his "Sea-to-Sea" Route (C2C) would connect the Pacific Northwest Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, the North Country Trail, the Long Trail, and the International Appalachian Trail in Canada to create a 7,700 mile transcontinental trail. In 2005, the North Country Trail Association's board of directors considered extending the NCT if the C2C vision proved viable. The following year, the National Park Service conducted field research to determine the feasibility of connecting the NCT in North Dakota with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in Montana and currently is in the process of considering seven alternative corridors.<sup>9</sup> A trail extension across the Champlain Valley in Vermont would provide a valuable eastward extension of the NCT, connecting it to the Long Trail, the International Appalachian Trail, and the Atlantic Ocean.

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<sup>8</sup> Sandra L. Johnson, "Federal Programs and Legislation: an overview of the National Trails System Act," *National Trails Training Partnership*, August 2, 2007, <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/feds/NatTrSysOverview.html> (accessed December 14, 2007).

<sup>9</sup> Ronald Strickland, *The Sea-to-Sea Route*, 2007, [http://www.ronstrickland.com/sea-to-sea\\_trail.htm](http://www.ronstrickland.com/sea-to-sea_trail.htm) (accessed November 19, 2007).

## **Purpose and Goals of the Champlain Valley Segment of the North Country Trail**

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A trail through the Champlain Valley in Addison County would link the North Country Trail (NCT) to the Long Trail (and therefore the Appalachian Trail) and would provide one of the missing links in the Sea-to-Sea (C2C) goal—connecting western trail networks to trails in the east to establish a continuous footpath across the continent. In order to realize this vision, Congress must authorize the Champlain Valley extension. Because of its connection to a nation-wide network of trails, this segment will serve long-distance users but will also provide recreational possibilities for local residents, and should incorporate their preferences and local knowledge.

In order to begin planning the Champlain Valley extension of the NCT, specific points of interest for anticipated trail users must be identified. The planning process will include a formalized series of public meetings guided by the National Park Service and local partners. Ideally, local residents will voice their interests and can advise decision-makers at the town and county levels. To assist in this process, the Middlebury College Environmental Studies Senior Seminar (ENVS 0401) surveyed and assessed the aesthetic, natural, cultural, economic, and historical landmarks in Addison County. Based on the inventory of landmarks, a potential corridor for the trail may be considered as part of a long-distance trail network, but also as a recreational, educational, and economic asset to the local Vermont communities. The trail system exemplifies former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's ideals of partnership between governments and cultivation of public support. He exhorts us to "invent new federal-state partnerships for managing and restoring our lands, partnerships that have sufficient charisma and public support to withstand destructive efforts by later administrations."<sup>10</sup> This trail segment brings together federal entities such as the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Forest Service, the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), local land managers such as the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT), and other organizations such as the

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<sup>10</sup> Bruce Babbitt, *Cities in the Wilderness: a new vision of land use in America* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2005), 45.

Green Mountain Club. Business owners in Addison County also have a stake in the trail because new hiking traffic could translate into increased tourism revenues. Additionally, local residents have an interest in the potential benefits and consequences of a trail in their community; and they may suggest routes based on local knowledge of the landscape and offer their preferences as potential users of the trail segment.

Today, the NCTA manages the NCT through local chapters. The NCTA is responsible for ensuring that the trail remains attractive to hikers by overseeing trail maintenance and the preservation of cultural, historical, and environmental features along the trail.<sup>11</sup> Management of the Champlain Valley extension remains undecided; construction and maintenance could rely on a new NCTA chapter, the Green Mountain Club, the Middlebury Area Land Trust, or some combination thereof. Community involvement would be important for protecting valuable environmental and historic sites and providing economic benefits through collaboration with local business owners.

Following the model of other corridor plans for national scenic trails, we propose a number of objectives for the Champlain Valley extension of the North Country Trail.<sup>12</sup> First, the trail should traverse a variety of landscapes that are aesthetically pleasing. Scenic vistas located along the entire section of trail will ensure consistent use and can provide views of broader landscapes, such as the Champlain Valley overlook on Snake Mountain. Additionally, the trail should offer users a chance to see traditional Vermont scenery, such as agricultural lands, forested riparian zones, and rocky hilltops.

Second, the trail should attract different types of users including trekkers, families, and those with limited mobility. By involving the community in trail planning we can ensure that diverse

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<sup>11</sup> *North Country Trail Association*, October 6, 2007, <http://www.northcountrytrail.org> (accessed November 19, 2007).

<sup>12</sup> National Park Service, "Ice Age National Scenic Trail: Corridor Plan and Environmental Assessment for Waushara County, Wisconsin," May 2007, 5-6; and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "North Country National Scenic Trail Draft Adirondack Park Trail Plan," November 2007, 27.

interests will be represented, local character will be preserved, and a sense of ownership will be cultivated for local residents through their involvement in the planning process.<sup>13</sup>

Third, the trail should link significant geological, biological, and historical sites along its path. Once the trail is constructed around or through these areas, they will become more valuable to the community and easier to preserve.<sup>14</sup> Increased foot traffic will enhance community understanding and appreciation for landmarks that might otherwise remain unknown; when community members gain familiarity with the sites along the trail they will be more inclined to support policies that preserve and protect these local sites.<sup>15</sup>

Fourth, the trail should provide economic benefits to surrounding towns and villages.<sup>16</sup> The trail will draw hikers from across the nation because of its links to the National Trails System, which will bring tourist dollars to local businesses. A 2001 report by the U.S. Forest Service noted the economic benefits of a similar trail segment: "The Great Allegheny Passage attracts 500,000 tourists annually, and brings economic and social benefits to an area that previously supported only heavy industry. It provides \$15 million in direct benefits annually to communities along the trail."<sup>17</sup> On the Champlain Valley extension, users will pass through working farms and village centers as well as local historical and cultural sites such as battlefields and museums. If the trail accomplishes all of these goals, it will not only provide tangible benefits to citizens, communities, and the economy, but also help protect and preserve the character of Addison County.

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<sup>13</sup> Christopher Duerksen and Cara Snyder, *Nature-Friendly Communities: Habitat Protection and Land Use Planning* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2005), 33.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 219.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 11-45.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 15.

<sup>17</sup> United States Forest Service, "Rail-Trail Unifies Communities and Provides Economic Development - Recreation Opportunities Are Second to None," 2001 [http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/success/2001\\_EAP.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/success/2001_EAP.pdf). (accessed December 15, 2007).

## Data Description

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The points of interest compiled in this report are the result of research conducted in the fall of 2007. Resources from the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, as well as other travel and tourism websites and materials provided the bulk of the results, but were augmented by the local knowledge gleaned from land trust employees, area scientists, outdoor organizations, and local residents. From these sources we compiled a list of attractions including historic buildings and museums, natural landscapes and scenic sights, cultural events and locations, outdoor recreation opportunities, and miscellaneous local interest destinations. Our compilation of landmarks reflected the potential uses of the trail; we assumed that trail users would be interested in outdoor recreation, natural and cultural scenery, and local sites that make the Champlain Valley unique. Existing trail networks, campgrounds, and scenic landmarks were all of principal concern in our research, and existing outdoor recreation opportunities were canvassed with particular care. We considered community use of the trail segment to be as important as through-hiking, so local interest was a high priority in our research. Our focus on these aspects of Addison County resulted in a list of locations that emphasize outdoor recreation, sightseeing, and enjoyment of both the natural and human aspects of the area (see Appendix A: Table of Points of Interest).

The list of attractions is as comprehensive as possible, but does not represent the sum total of all points of interest in the area, nor is it meant to be a value judgment on the importance or value of the various landmarks. Our hope is that the compilation of landmarks will serve as a foundation upon which other notable sites can be added at the suggestion of community members. The trail project will benefit from public feedback, input, and investment, so our data set should be used not as a final determination but as a launch point for public dialog. The current data set of landmarks is tabulated according to name, category (e.g. historic), and location, and includes a brief description. Addresses were located using Vermont E911 GIS data, and other prominent landmarks were

located using satellite photos or GPS units. The spatial data were recorded both in table form and on an area map, and this information is available from the Middlebury Area Land Trust. These data can provide the foundation for future research into the trail corridor and for contact with stakeholders along potential trail routes.

### ***Map Description***

The first area of our focus was public and privately conserved lands (see Appendix B, Figure 3). We determined that these lands would be the most readily accessible or negotiable, as they have already been conserved in one form or another. We then looked at already existing trail networks; by incorporating as much existing infrastructure as possible, we hope to help ease the construction process and avoid unnecessary disturbance of wilderness as well as reduce costs by maintaining existing trails instead of constructing new trails (Figure 4). After examining conserved lands and existing trails, we located amenities, landmarks, and services that are relevant to hiking and recreation, beginning with campgrounds and state parks (Figure 5). As the NCT is intended for long-distance backpacking and the Champlain Valley section stretches roughly 40 miles, overnight areas are an important consideration for through-hikers. Next, we included natural and scenic sites (Figure 6). These include areas with unique flora or fauna, geological sites, or picturesque views, like the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area or Snake Mountain overlook.

In order to highlight the aspects of local character influenced by humans, we located historic and archaeological sites across the valley (Figure 7). The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and sites along Otter Creek are full of rich regional history. Along these same lines, we looked at cultural sites, such as museums and libraries (Figure 8). Though these are not typical hiking stops, the community members and other trail users might find them educational and interesting. Finally, we wanted to acknowledge agriculture as an integral part of the area's character (Figure 9). Ever since Vermont was settled in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, agriculture was an important part of the economy, as

well as contributor to the iconic lifestyle, in the Champlain Valley. Although trail users will most likely be able to observe working farms by hiking past dairy farms and sown fields, some visitors may wish to get a closer look at genuine Vermont farming practices. The growing popularity of agro-tourism in the state means that some businesses, including The University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm and Moonlit Alpacas, have become much more publicly accessible and open to visitors. Not only is agro-tourism appealing to trail users as a component of the agricultural history of Vermont, it is also beneficial to the local community as a new source of revenue for the region.

Figure 10 shows all of the points of interest superimposed on conserved lands and existing trails. After compiling and mapping the lands, trails, and landmarks across the Champlain Valley, some trends emerge (Figure 11). To the north, the Vergennes area has many interesting landmarks and accessible lands. However, getting there from Crown Point would entail crossing nearly ten miles of mostly-private land. To the south, there are Vermont Land Trust easement lands, points of agricultural interest, and some historical sites, but formidable amounts of privately-owned land. Through the center of the county, Middlebury stands as an important business, cultural, and historical center surrounded by public and conservation lands. The sixteen-mile Trail Around Middlebury, constructed and maintained by MALT, encircles the village center and provides an existing footpath with public access permission from landowners.

## Potential Trail Corridors

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After reviewing our data, we noticed three corridors—as mentioned in the previous section—that encompassed a significant number of points of interest. A southern corridor would cross Bridport and Shoreham, then connect with Lake Dunmore and the Moosalamoo Recreation Area and arrive at the Long Trail (LT). The northern corridor would travel through Vergennes and connect with the LT after passing through Bristol. The central corridor would traverse Snake Mountain, pass through Middlebury, and then connect with the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area and finally the LT.

The central corridor would provide access to many significant landmarks and make use of many existing public lands. It would include Snake Mountain, with its own existing trail system and public use lands, as well as the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) system currently administered by the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT). The town of Middlebury, which falls along this potential central route, provides many important cultural and historical sites such as Middlebury College, the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Otter Creek Falls, and the Vermont State Craft Center. This route could also highlight Lake Dunmore, the Breadloaf Campus of Middlebury College, and the Robert Frost Interpretive trails, all of which are important landmarks in the area.

As an example, we created a two-mile-wide buffer zone that incorporated many of the public lands, trail networks, and points of interest along the central corridor. The trail would run approximately 35-40 miles, depending on the route of the trail within the boundaries of the corridor; of that 35-40 miles, roughly 10 miles of trail already exist. Within the buffer area are some 46,500 acres of land; however, roughly 15,500 acres are already held as public land or have some form of private easement. This means that 33% of the land in this corridor has already been conserved in some way, which could ease the potential conflicts in trail planning.

However, many significant points of interest are located outside of the center of Addison County. Bristol and Vergennes offer many important landmarks, and public access and protected lands exist throughout the region. For example, a central trail route would miss such landmarks as the Bristol Cliffs Wilderness, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and the Vergennes Opera House. In addition to a potential North Country Trail Corridor, the diffuse nature of points of interest in Addison County and the richness of each town center and natural area suggests that the development of a community trail network that would allow local residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the many aspects of the county on foot could be worth exploring.

## Suggestions for Further Action

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We have presented the attached maps and base data to the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) for their use in the next phase of this trail project, in the context of National Park Service protocol for national scenic trail planning. We suggest meetings with user groups, such as the Green Mountain Club, that can provide valuable input and have the potential to serve as supportive partners in developing and maintaining the trail. Open forums may serve as valuable opportunities for gathering constructive feedback from the public. If MALT organizes these meetings, they will foster a sense of local involvement and commitment from the community members interested in development of the trail.

One of the principal considerations for route proposals was existing public and easement lands. Use of public lands reduces impact on private property and has less chance of displeasing private landowners. However, it is impossible to traverse the Champlain Valley on an off-road trail system without crossing private lands. Therefore, open communication with landowners along the potential route corridors will be vital. There are a number of large landowners in Addison County who could provide long segments of uninterrupted trail corridors; communication with these landowners could yield significant gains.

Finally, as is part of the National Park Service's protocol, an environmental impact assessment should be completed as a pivotal part of this project. An official assessment of ecological effects of the trail should be conducted prior to any final consideration of trail routes. One of the main goals of this project is to provide access to the incredible natural amenities that the Vermont countryside has to offer; therefore, preserving those natural features should remain a top priority for the duration of this project.

We think an extension of the NCT through the Champlain Valley would benefit both the country and Addison County. Not only would this trail segment connect the North Country Trail to

the Long Trail, but it would also allow local residents to connect to the local landscape. In addition, we think increased knowledge of local points of interest will give them greater value and promote conservation, and the economic benefits from increased foot traffic will help local business. Although we know that implementation of this trail segment will be a complex and time-consuming process, we feel that because of its many tangible benefits this process should be moved forward quickly and efficiently.

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## Appendix A – Table of Points of Interest

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Champlain Valley Alpacas	Agriculture	Bridport	One of the largest alpaca ranches in the state of Vermont, guests are welcome to visit and join in the daily routine.
Bristol Farmers Market	Agriculture	Bristol	Located on the Village Green. Open Wednesdays from June through October.
Moonlit Alpacas	Agriculture	Cornwall	Moonlit Alpacas is home to 40 alpacas from quality breeders and a retail store with alpaca clothing, stuffed animals and home accessories.
Middlebury Farmers Market	Agriculture	Middlebury	Located at Marble Works. Open Wednesdays June through September, Saturdays May through October.
Farmingdale / Seeley District	Agriculture	Middlebury	One of the oldest settled areas of Addison County, this historic village is located near rich farmland near the Middlebury River and Otter Creek.
Orwell Village Farmers Market	Agriculture	Orwell	Located on the Town Green. Open Fridays late June through early October.
New England Maple Museum	Agriculture	Pittsford	The world's largest maple museum. Open daily.
Atwood Orchards	Agriculture	Shoreham	Local apple picking specializing in McIntosh, Cortland, Empire, and Red Delicious. They also sell homemade apple cider, pies, doughnuts, and baked goods. Open Labor Day weekend through October.
Champlain Orchards	Agriculture	Shoreham	The orchard grows over 25 delicious varieties of apples, plums, cherries and raspberries, press their own sweet cider, and hand make apple pies, apple butter and applesauce. Pick your own produce July through September.
Golden Russet Farm	Agriculture	Shoreham	A family-run organic farm growing a wide variety of summer and fall vegetables. Open Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays.
Vergennes Farmers Market	Agriculture	Vergennes	Located on the City Green. Open Saturdays May through October.
Monument Farms	Agriculture	Weybridge	A family owned and run dairy farm that processes, packages, and ships milk from their own plant; a small retail store is open daily.
UVM Morgan Horse Farm	Agriculture	Weybridge	World famous historic Morgan horse breeding farm since 1870s. Working farm for 60-80 Morgans. Breeds pure-blood Morgan Horses and offers tours of the facilities
Apple Ridge Farms	Agriculture	Whiting	The Farm offer local products, including Gourmet Buffalo and apples. It is also the home base for Horse-Drawn Farm Tours.

Ten Acres Campground	Camping	Addison	Campground with lean-to's and camper rentals, and wooded tenting area. Hot showers, snacks, LP gas, and laundry are available.
DAR State Park	Camping	Addison	Season: May 26 - Sept 5

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Kingsland Bay State Park	Camping	Ferrisburgh	Season: May 26 to October 15
USFS Campground	Camping	Goshen	Publicly accessible and free camping year round with access to trails.
Country Village Campground	Camping	Leicester	41 camp sites are suited for tents or large RVs with a fireplace, picnic table, water.
Rivers Bend Campground	Camping	New Haven	Campground with heated in-ground pool, clean restrooms, store, ice, wood, and metered propane, electrical and water. Also available are showers, laundry, fire rings, picnic tables, nature trails and rental canoes.
Lake Dunmore Kampersville	Camping	Salisbury	RV-oriented park with campsites, camping amenities, and a general store. Easy beach access to Lake Dunmore across the road.
Waterhouses Campground on Lake Dunmore	Camping	Salisbury	71-site campground and marina on 160 acres on the shores of Lake Dunmore. RVs, trailers, and tenting welcome, motorboats, canoes, paddleboats available for rental.
Branbury State Park	Camping	Salisbury	Season: May 26 to October 15
Maple Hill Campsites	Camping	Starksboro	Woodland walks, trout fishing and swimming nearby. Private sites suited to tents, in the woods bordering Shadow Brook, or in the field. Free hot showers, flush toilets. The Long Trail is accessible from nearby Jerusalem Trail.
Button Bay State Park	Camping	Ferrisburgh	Season: May 26 to October 15

Champlain Valley Folk Festival	Cultural	Ferrisburgh	Folk and traditional music and dancing on Lake Champlain. Held in early August.
Ilsley Public Library	Cultural	Middlebury	The Middlebury public library collection includes Vermont history, genealogy resources, and books by resident authors. Local artists also exhibit their works.
Middlebury College Museum of Art	Cultural	Middlebury	Art museum with rotating seasonal exhibits and a permanent collection; admission free. Cafe and performance halls in the same building.
Vermont Folklife Center	Cultural	Middlebury	Traditional folk arts, stories, and ways of life preserved in gallery, videotapes and sound archives. Traveling and seasonal exhibitions on display.
Addison County Fair and Field Days	Cultural	New Haven	Carnival rides, animal shows, tractor pulling, music. Held yearly in early August.
Robert Frost Interpretive Trail and Wayside Area	Cultural	Ripton	Frost poems and interpretive information mounted on plaques along trail; 3/10 mile handicapped accessible. Picnic facilities at Wayside Area.
Bixby Memorial Library	Cultural	Vergennes	Vergennes' public library serves Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham. Designed in a classic Greek Revival style around a central rotunda, with a stained glass dome overhead; notable collection on Vermont.
Vergennes Opera House	Cultural	Vergennes	Century-old building with continuing restoration. Year-round schedule of events, located on second floor of City Hall on Main Street.

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Chimney Point State Historic Site	Historic	Addison	Site of early Native American campsites and French Colonial Settlement. Seasonal museum.
DAR John Strong Mansion Museum	Historic	Addison	Two-hundred year old home of Revolutionary patriot and his family. Tours include the Strong family story intertwined with traditions of 18th century life of interest to adults and children.
Downtown Brandon	Historic	Brandon	First Chartered in 1761 as "Neshobe" after the Neshobe River that ran the industrial mills, the town changed its name to Brandon in 1764. It remains a beautiful example of small-town Vermont. A self-guided walking tour of Brandon's historic buildings can be found online at <a href="http://www.brandon.org/walking_tour.php">www.brandon.org/walking_tour.php</a> .
Forestdale Blast Furnace	Historic	Brandon	Located just south of Lake Dunmore, the blast furnace was an important industrial center in the early economic development of the region.
Native American Sites (includes Otter Creek floodplain mouth)	Historic	Ferrisburgh	Lake Champlain supported Native American populations at least since the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet about 11,300 years ago. Their occupation sites and lakeside workshops existed in many areas around the lake; archeological evidence gathered there adds to our understanding of their presence in the Champlain Valley.
Rokeby Museum	Historic	Ferrisburgh	National Historic Landmark and operating museum, notable Underground Railroad.
Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site	Historic	Hubbardton	Site of the only Revolutionary War battle fought in Vermont; includes battlefield, trails, visitor center and museum.
Emma Willard Marker	Historic	Middlebury	U.S. Route 7, on the Common. Emma Willard was a pioneer educator, starting the first institution of higher education for women in the United States in her home.
Emma Willard House	Historic	Middlebury	Emma Hart Willard started the first institution of higher education for women in the United States. Her female seminary began in this Federal Style brick home, built in 1811 and owned by her husband Dr. John Willard, the first physician in Middlebury. Here, she wrote her "Plan for Improving Female Education" in 1818. Acquired by Middlebury College in 1959, this building was declared a national historic site in 1966 and was renovated and expanded in 1986.
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History	Historic	Middlebury	Significant historical museum located in an 1829 mansion; research center; museum shop; special programs; open daily.
John Deere Marker	Historic	Middlebury	Inventor of the plow that broke the plains, John Deere learned the blacksmith trade here as an apprentice in the shop of Capt. Benjamin Lawrence from 1821 to 1825. The shop was located below this spot on Mill Street in what is known as 'Frog Hollow'. In 1836 Deere removed to Grand Detour, Illinois where, in 1837, he built the world's first steel moldboard plow.

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Main Street Burying Ground	Historic	Middlebury	Adjacent to Middlebury College and St Mary's Cemetery (Catholic). Some of the most prominent persons from every era of Middlebury's history are buried here: Gamaliel Painter, Seth Storrs, Horatio Seymour, and the Battell Family. The mummy of Prince Amun-Her-Khepesh-Ef, two-year-old son of King Senwoiset III and Queen Hathor-Hotpe [sic], is also here. The mummy from 1883 B.C. was on display in the Sheldon Museum until the damp Vermont climate triggered its deterioration.
Otter Creek Falls	Historic	Middlebury	The Otter Creek Falls established downtown Middlebury as a regional manufacturing center. The falls powered a number of different mill operations during the industrial era, beginning with gristmills and moving to cotton and wool mills later in the 19th century. An abandoned mill is owned by MALT.
Mount Independence State Historic Site	Historic	Orwell	Revolutionary War fort site. Remains of Blockhouse, gun batteries, hospital and star fort.
Robert Frost Cabin	Historic	Ripton	Frost bought the Homer Noble Farm after his wife died in 1938, and he stayed in the cabin when summering in Vermont and attending the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. His friends, Kay and Ted Morrison, took over the farmhouse below.
Salisbury Mills	Historic	Salisbury	Now preserved by MALT, the Salisbury Mills complex includes ruins of infrastructure important to nineteenth century industry and an interpretive site.
Shard Villa	Historic	Salisbury	Now a special care home for the elderly, Shard Villa is a beautiful Victorian Style home.
Salisbury Mills	Historic	Salisbury	Historic site with 19 <sup>th</sup> century mills, recently preserved by MALT
Salisbury Station Covered Bridge	Historic	Salisbury	This 154-foot bridge spans Otter Creek on Swamp Road at the edge of the Great Cedar Swamp. Built in 1865, it provided the Town of Cornwall with a vital economic link to the railway shipping point at Salisbury, and is known for its unique truss.
Crown Point Military Road	Historic	Various	Designed and built under order from General Jeffrey Amherst, the Crown Point Military Road was constructed in 1759 -1760 to connect the Connecticut River valley with Lake Champlain. It was an essential part of Amherst's strategy to repel French incursions and to launch an invasion into Quebec.
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum	Historic	Vergennes	This museum suggests why Lake Champlain is perhaps the most historic body of water in North America. Includes historic exhibits, nautical archaeology, and Revolutionary War gunboat replica <i>Philadelphia II</i> .
Vergennes Harbor and Otter Creek Falls	Historic	Vergennes	Vermont's oldest and smallest city, Vergennes is adjacent to major falls on Otter Creek, and at its furthest navigable extent. During the War of 1812, a small naval fleet was constructed in Vergennes to defend Lake Champlain against British incursions from Canada.

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Rattlin' Bridge - Weybridge	Historic	Weybridge	Designated as an historical bridge in 2006, the "Rattlin' Bridge" was restored and refurbished in 2007. Crossing the Otter Creek between New Haven and Weybridge, the bridge sits just above Belden Falls Dam, a run of the river electric generating plant first built nearly a century ago.
Silas Wright Monument	Historic	Weybridge	Silas Wright, former governor of New York, was raised in the village of Weybridge Hill
Whitney Creek	Natural	Addison	The mouth of Whitney Creek in Addison and its associated seasonal marsh is prime habitat for diverse species of birds and other plants and animals.
Dead Creek Visitors Area	Natural	Addison	This interpretive site has information on the entire area and is a great spot to learn about the area and birds, especially the annual snow goose migration.
Dead Creek	Natural	Addison, Panton, Bridport	A large, dammed marsh complex that is a major migration flyway for birds.
Snake Mountain	Natural	Addison, Weybridge	A major topographic feature in Champlain Valley, Snake Mountain was formed by unique geologic uplift and rises nine hundred feet above the surrounding valley floor. Includes state-owned lands and Nature Conservancy lands.
Cliffs of Mount Horrid	Natural	Brandon	Located on Mount Horrid above Brandon Gap. Prime Peregrine Falcon nesting sites.
Moosalamoo Region	Natural	Brandon, Middlebury	A newly-designated National Recreation Area; recreation includes trails for hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.
Lemon Fair WMA	Natural	Bridport	Very limited access to state-owned parcels.
Dear Leap Mountain	Natural	Bristol	Rising above Bristol village, Dear Leap is home to rare terrestrial plant communities and contains prime habitat for various mammals.
Bartlett Falls	Natural	Bristol	A 14' waterfall in the gorge of the New Haven River as it descends into Bristol; it is perhaps the most popular swimming hole in Vermont.
Bristol Cliffs Wilderness	Natural	Bristol	Smallest wilderness area in Vermont. Designated in 1975 comprises 3,738 acres. A unique habitat is found at cliff base, heavily influenced by temperature inversion.
Bristol Pond	Natural	Bristol	In Monkton and Bristol, this is an 800 acre pond with extensive marsh and bog vegetation
Richville Reservoir	Natural	Chittenden	A frequent fishing destination, Richville Reservoir has an important aquatic community and is a frequent destination for raptors.
Cornwall Swamp	Natural	Cornwall, Whiting	A vast swamp of about 1,000 acres forms on the seasonally flooded flatlands bordering Otter Creek in the Town of Cornwall. Designated a "National Natural Landmark."
Abbey Pond	Natural	East Middlebury	A high mountain pond. The trail to Abbey Pond passes a stand old-growth conifers and a mature forest ecosystem.
Middlebury River	Natural	East Middlebury	Scenic river that runs down the Green Mountains along Route 125. Has swimming holes and bridge.

Site Name	Category	Town	Additional Information
Rattlesnake Cliffs	Natural	East Middlebury	Hike up to this beautiful lookout in the Moosalamoo wilderness and take in views overlooking Lake Dunmore and the Southern Champlain Valley.
Joseph Battell Wilderness	Natural	Hancock	Wilderness area located just south of Bread Loaf Wilderness area, includes many patches of large mature northern hardwoods.
Leicester Bog	Natural	Leicester	An area of rich plant life, with maple, ash, cedar and fern.
Mount Abraham	Natural	Lincoln	Although limited to a few acres, the summit has rare alpine tundra vegetation.
Battell Research Forest	Natural	Middlebury	Owned by Middlebury College, the Battell Research Forest contains an old-growth hemlock grove.
Otter Creek Gorge	Natural	Middlebury	One of the many whitewater and waterfall areas along the one hundred mile Otter Creek, the gorge provides onlookers with a beautiful view of the unique geology that sits below the fertile soils of the Champlain Valley.
Bread Loaf Campus	Natural	Ripton	Site of Middlebury College School of English, held every summer; seasonal program includes public lectures and theater productions.
Breadloaf Wilderness	Natural	Ripton	Largest wilderness area in Green Mountain National Forest. Designated in 1984 comprises 25,237 acres.
Spirit in Nature	Natural	Ripton	This network of nature paths offers a serene location for religious contemplation, including paths for many faiths, each blazed with important passages and scriptures. Entry is free; open year-round.
Silver Lake	Natural	Salisbury	Once the site of a grand hotel in the late nineteenth century, Silver Lake is an upland pond surrounded by the Green Mountain National Forest.
Lake Dunmore	Natural	Salisbury	Home to Branbury State Park and many seasonal homes, Lake Dunmore is a large lake on the border between the farmed Champlain Valley and forested Green Mountains.
Salisbury Swamp	Natural	Salisbury	Comprised of 500 acres of wetland forest and grasslands, the Salisbury swamp is home to some of the most diverse flora and fauna in Addison County.
Catamount Trail	Natural	Various	North America's longest backcountry ski trail stretches for 300 miles through the spine of the Green Mountains.
Otter Creek	Natural	Various	Once referred to as "The Indian Road", the Otter Creek was the main centerpiece in settlement and development of the Champlain Valley. Now primarily used as an electrical power source, the river provides many historical, biological and scenic sites.
Bittersweet Falls	Natural	Weybridge	A popular swimming hole and small waterfall on Beaver Brook near the village of Weybridge Hill.
Weybridge Cave State Natural Area	Natural	Weybridge	Vermont's largest cave. It is very sensitive to human disturbance and can be quite dangerous. Only expert cavers should attempt exploration, as both the descent and passageways are very difficult, and require special equipment.

## Appendix B – Figure 1



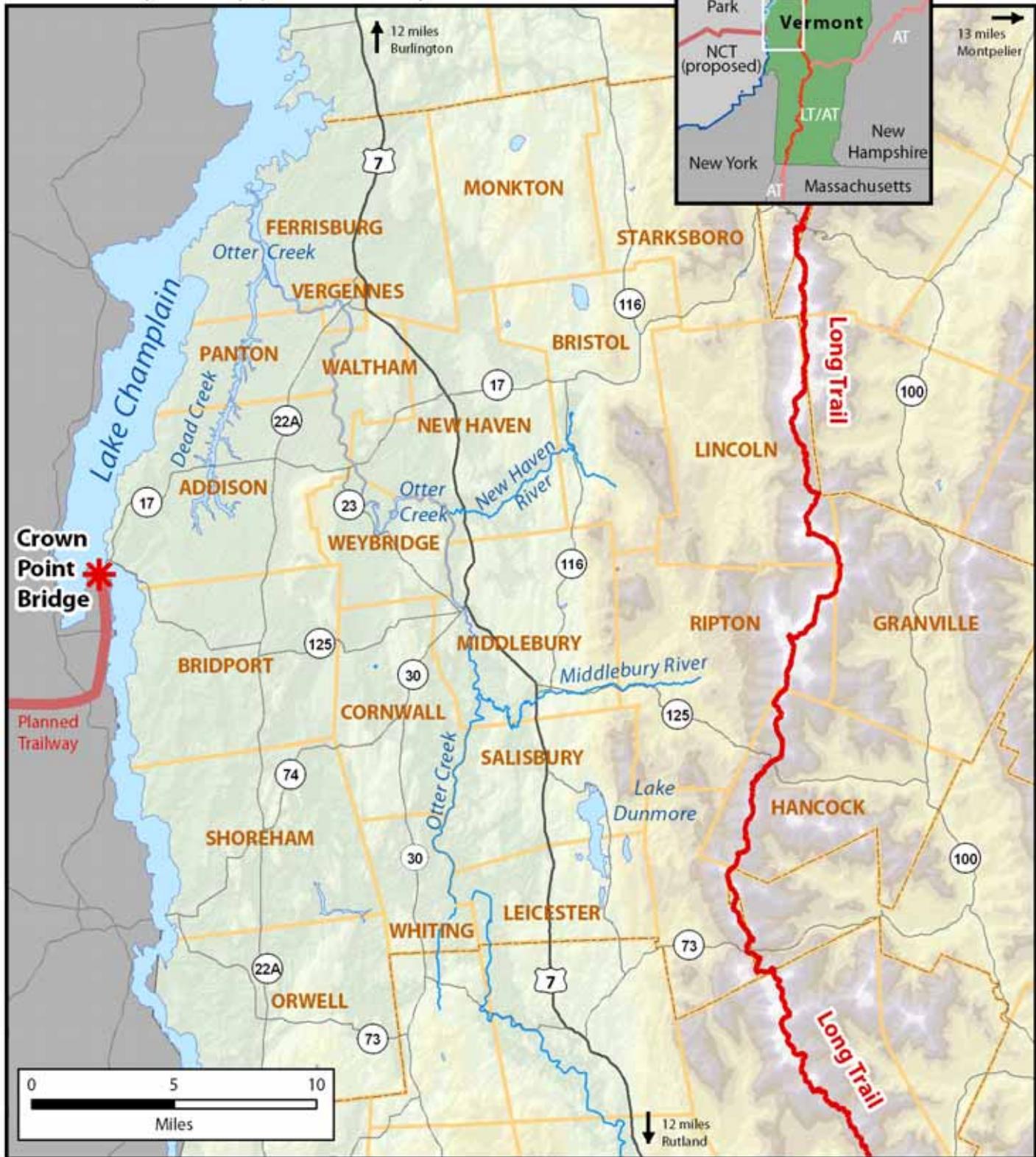
**Approximate route of the North Country National Scenic Trail** through (l-r) North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

*Courtesy of Clare Cain, Director of Trail Management, North Country Trail Association .*

Appendix B – Figure 2

## Study Area

Focused on Addison County, this map exaggerates elevation and waterbodies for easy identification. The existing and proposed routes of the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, and North Country Trail are displayed in the smaller map.



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

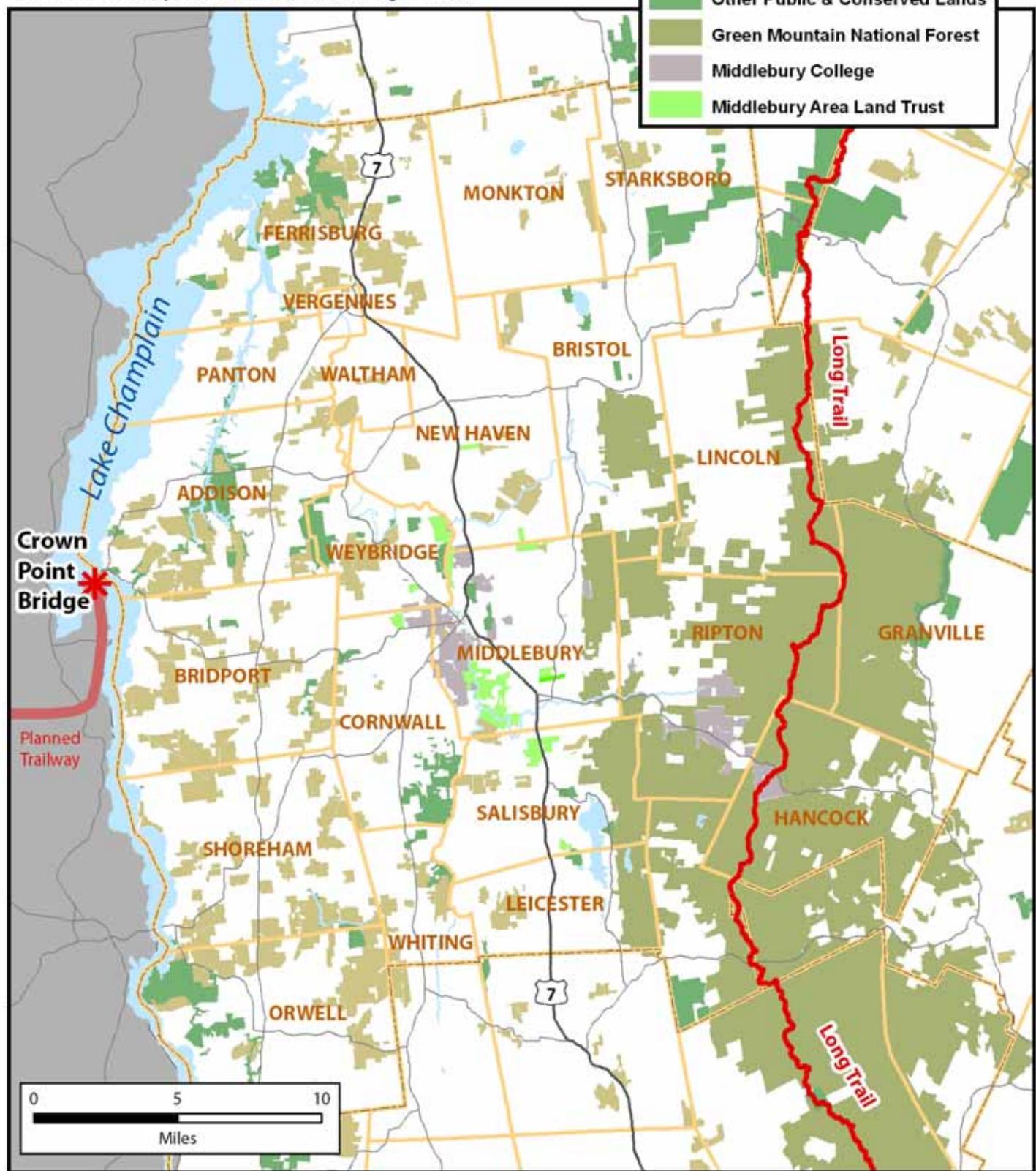
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

— County Boundary  
— Town Boundary

Appendix B – Figure 3

# Public & Conserved Lands

Includes public land and conservation easements held by the Vermont Land Trust, the Middlebury Area Land Trust, and other organizations



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

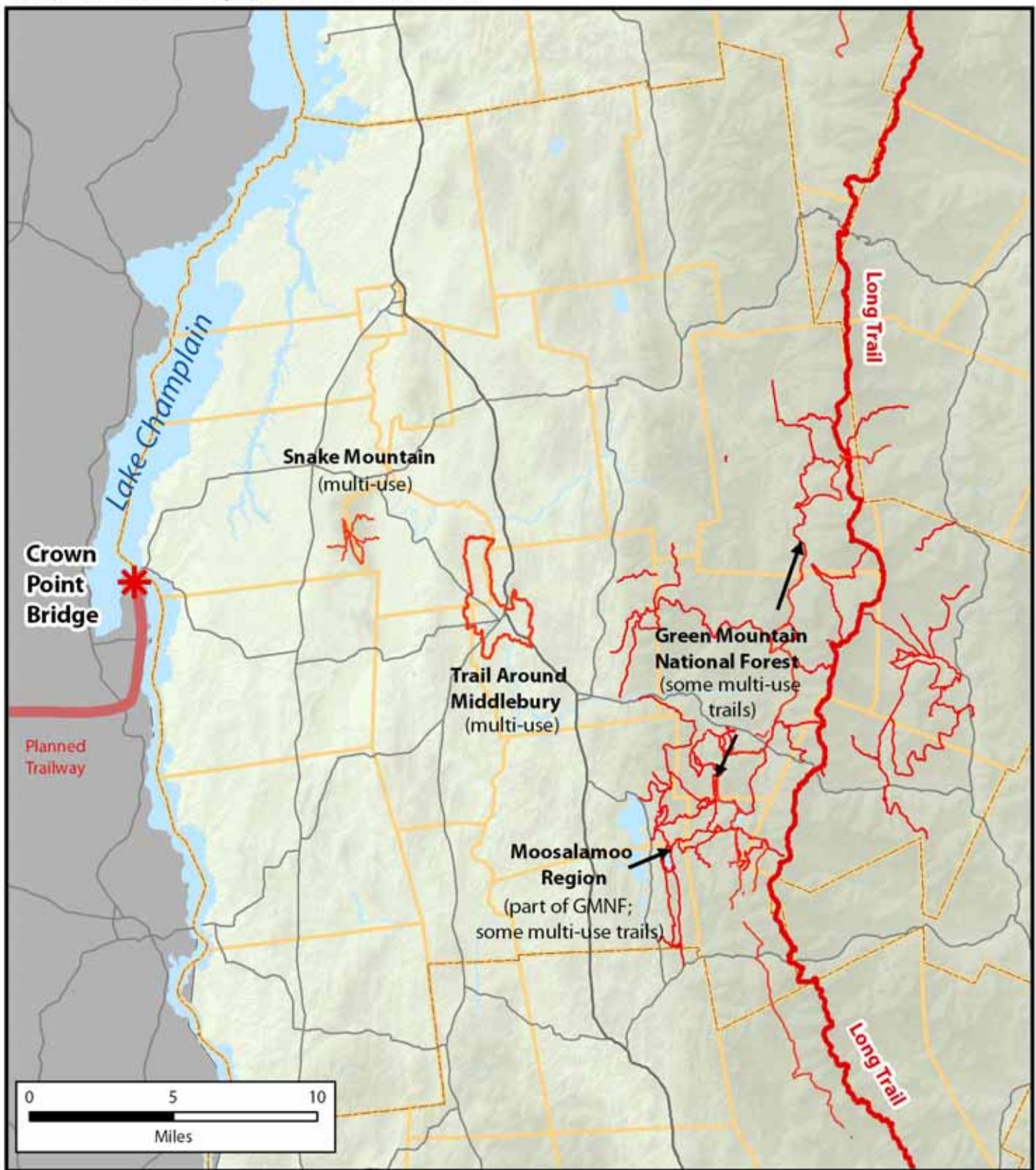
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

Town Boundary  
County Boundary

Appendix B – Figure 4

## Existing Trails

Includes Catamount Trail and some trails open to mechanized vehicles and horses;  
excludes snowmobile-only VAST trails and Forest Roads



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

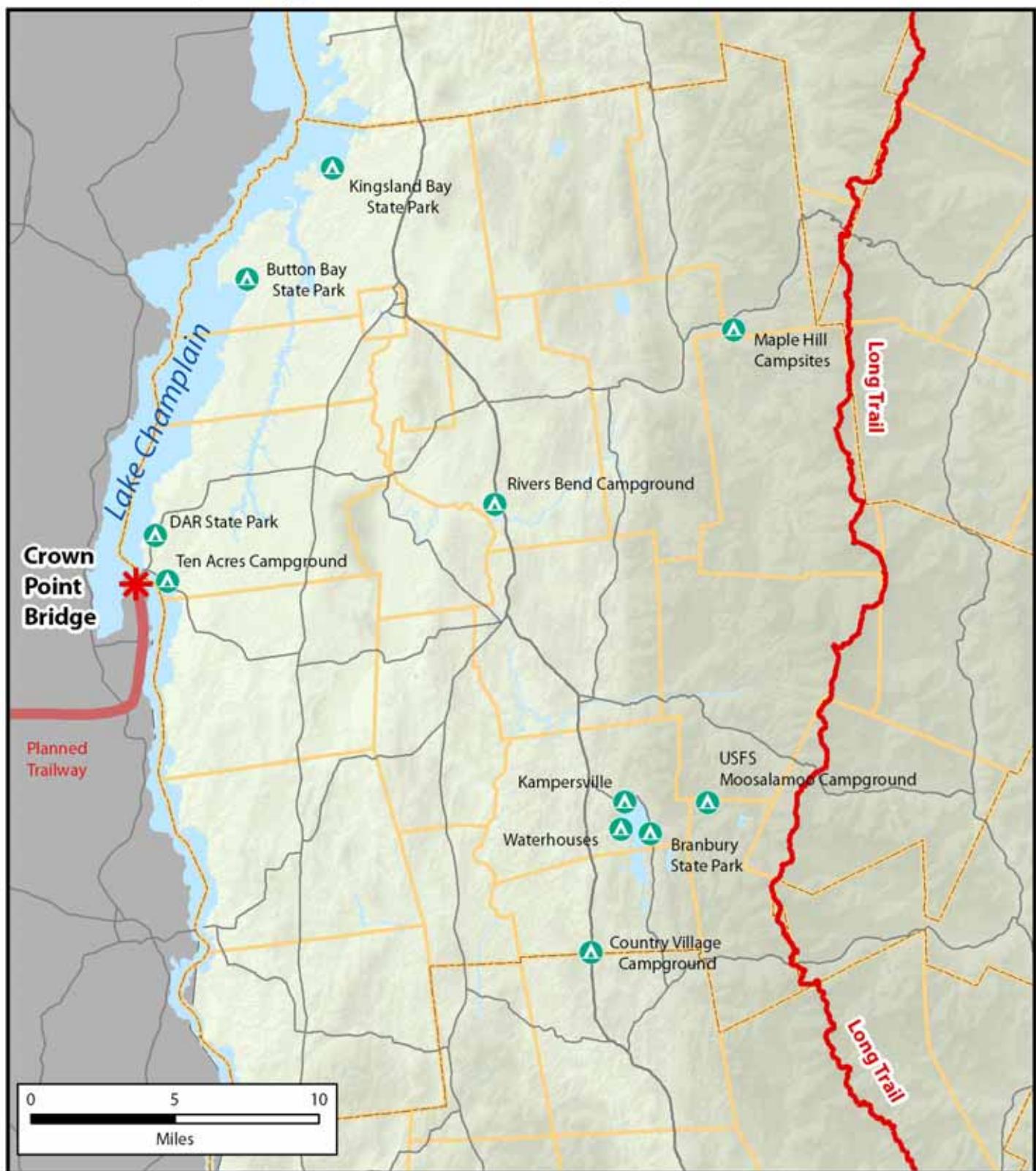
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 5

# Campgrounds

Includes State Parks, private campgrounds, and one Forest Service campground



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

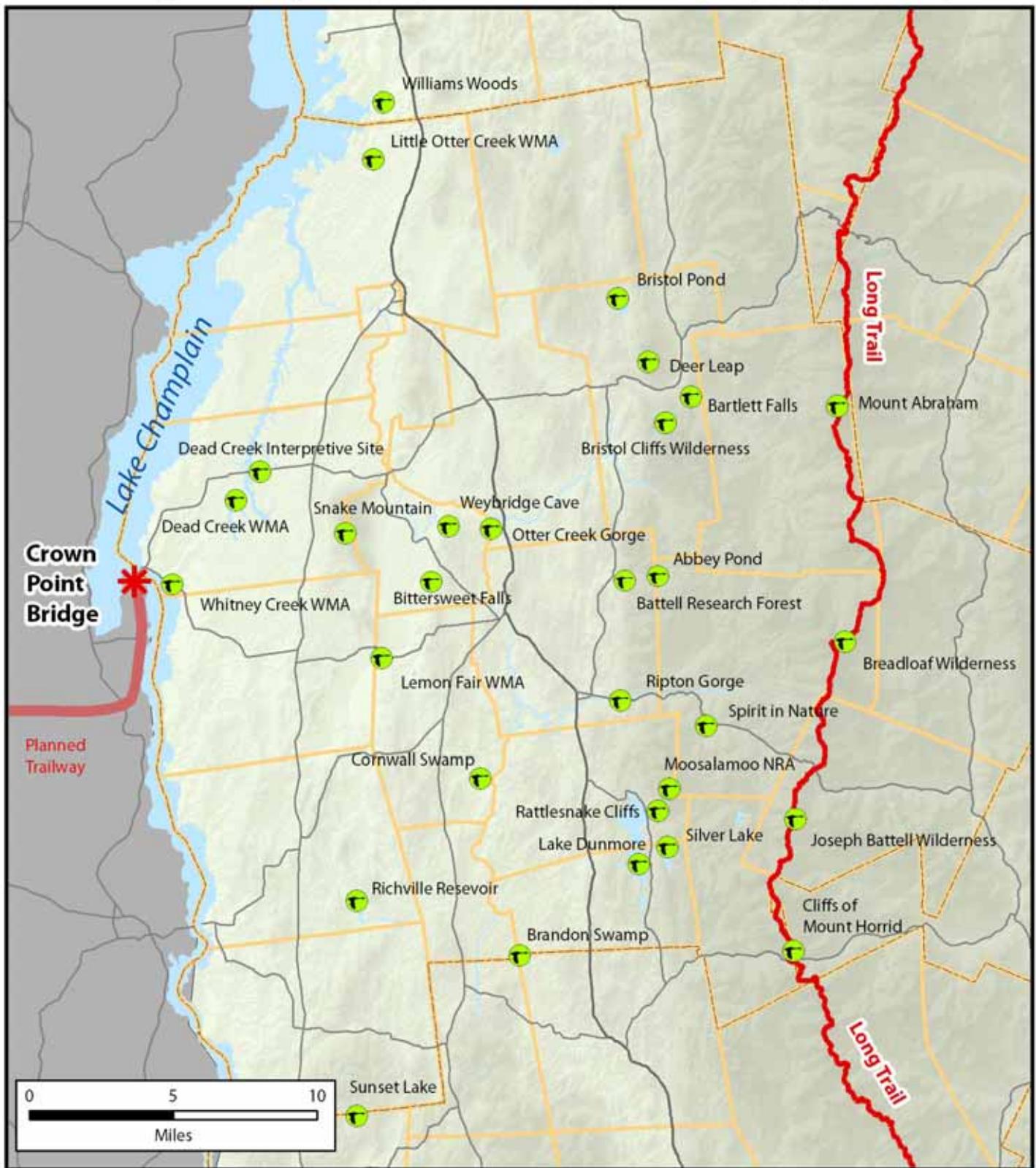
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 6

# Natural & Scenic Sites

Includes rare ecosystems, nature preserves, designated wildlife management areas (WMA), and popular swimming holes



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

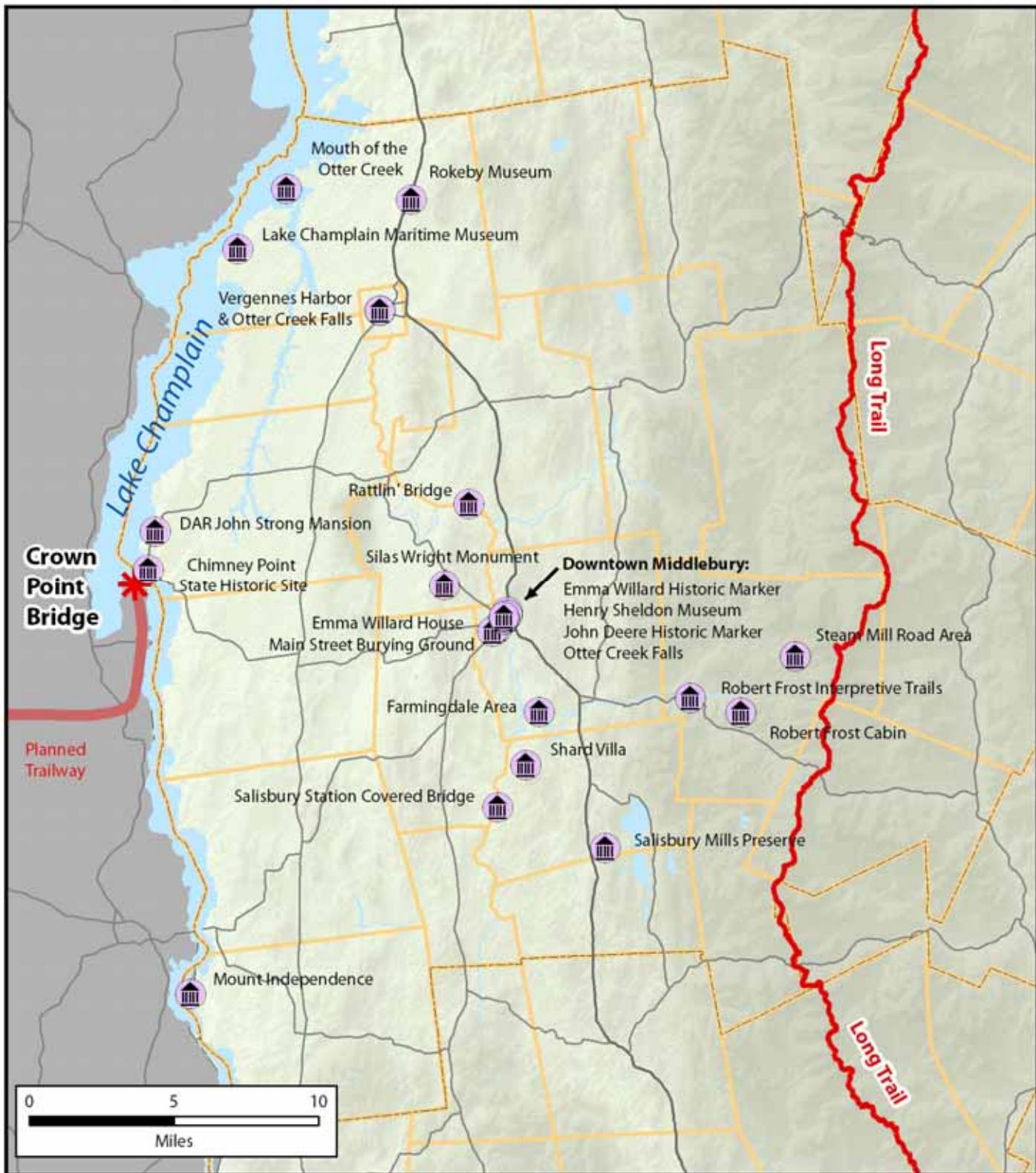
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 7

# Historic Sites

Includes archaeological sites, historic architecture, and locations prominent in the settlement of the Champlain Valley



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

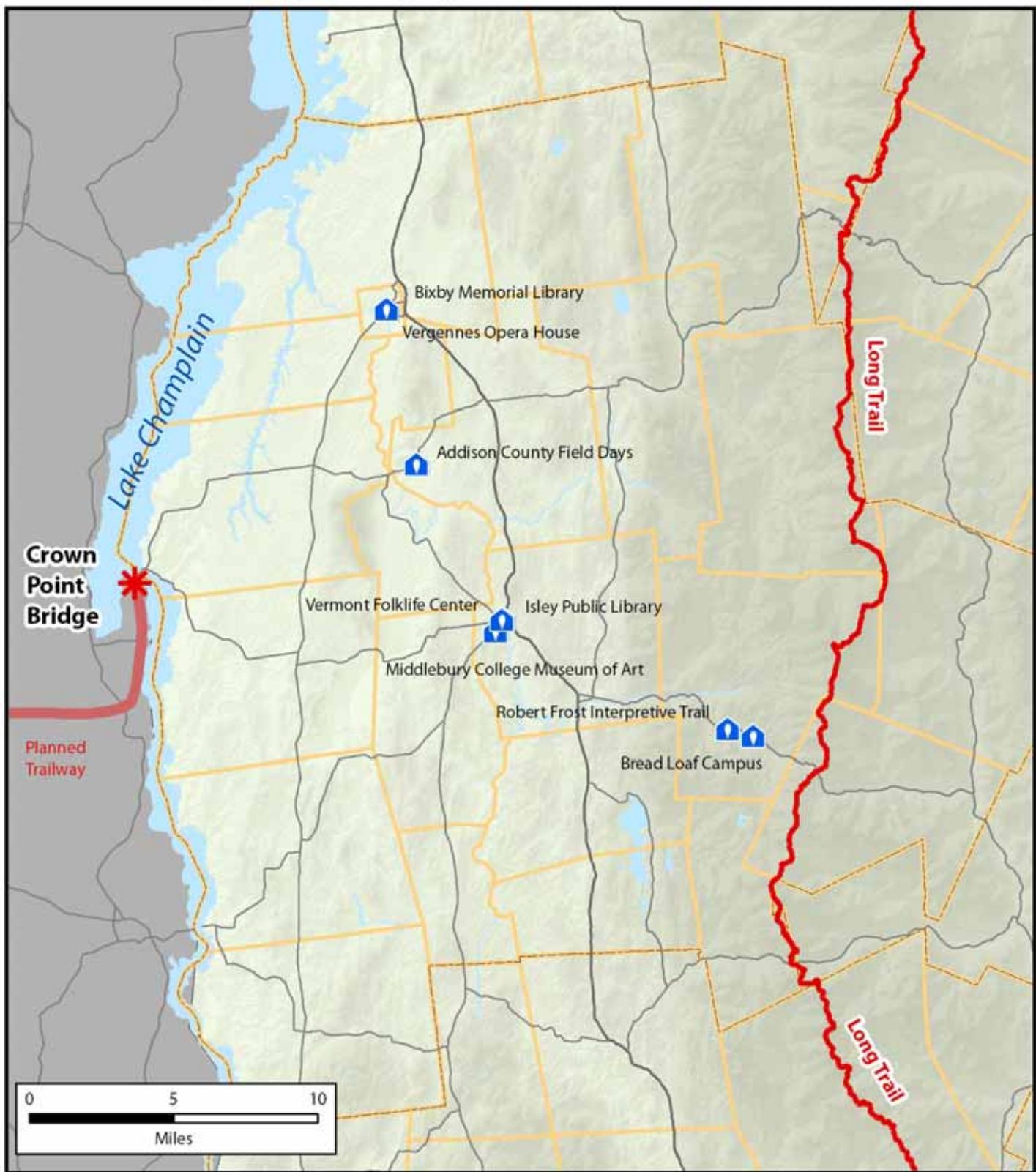
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 8

## Cultural Sites

Includes art museums, performing arts, and major regional libraries



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

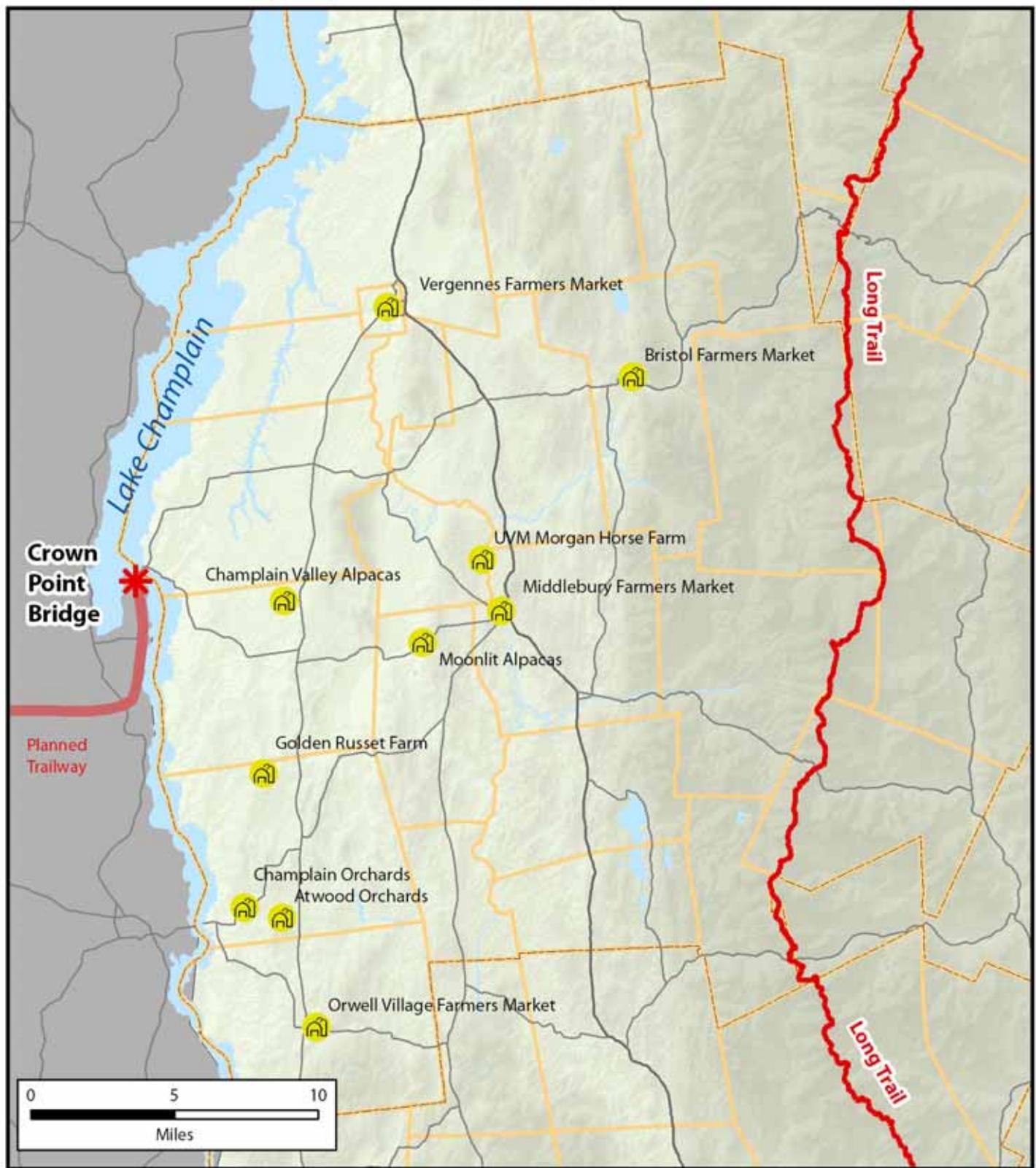
Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 9

## Agricultural Sites

Includes farmers markets and specialty farms welcoming visitors; many destinations are seasonal



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary

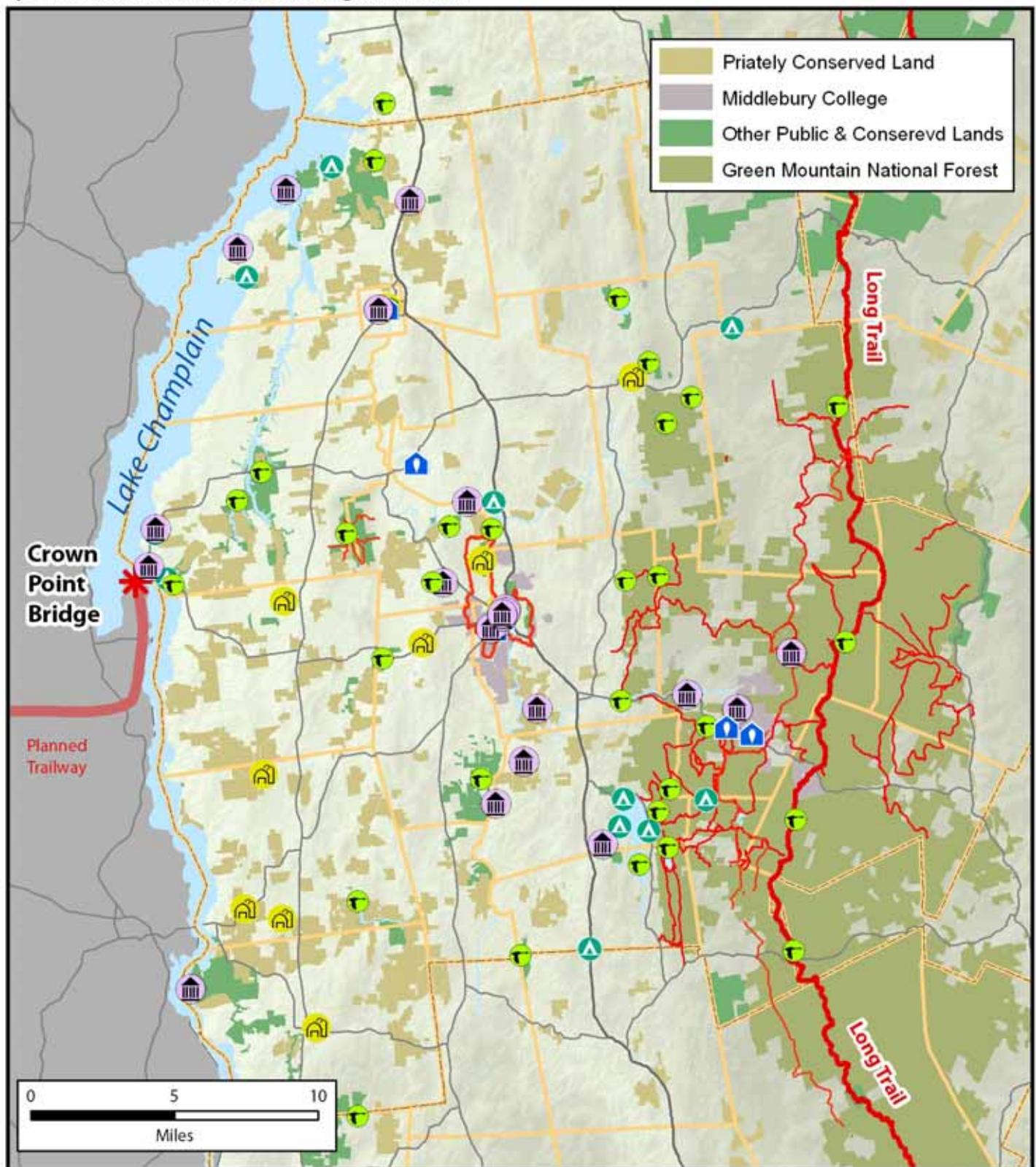
Town Boundary

Roadways

Appendix B – Figure 10

## Combined Resources

Includes agricultural, cultural, historic, natural, and scenic sites; campgrounds; public and conserved lands; and existing trail networks



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

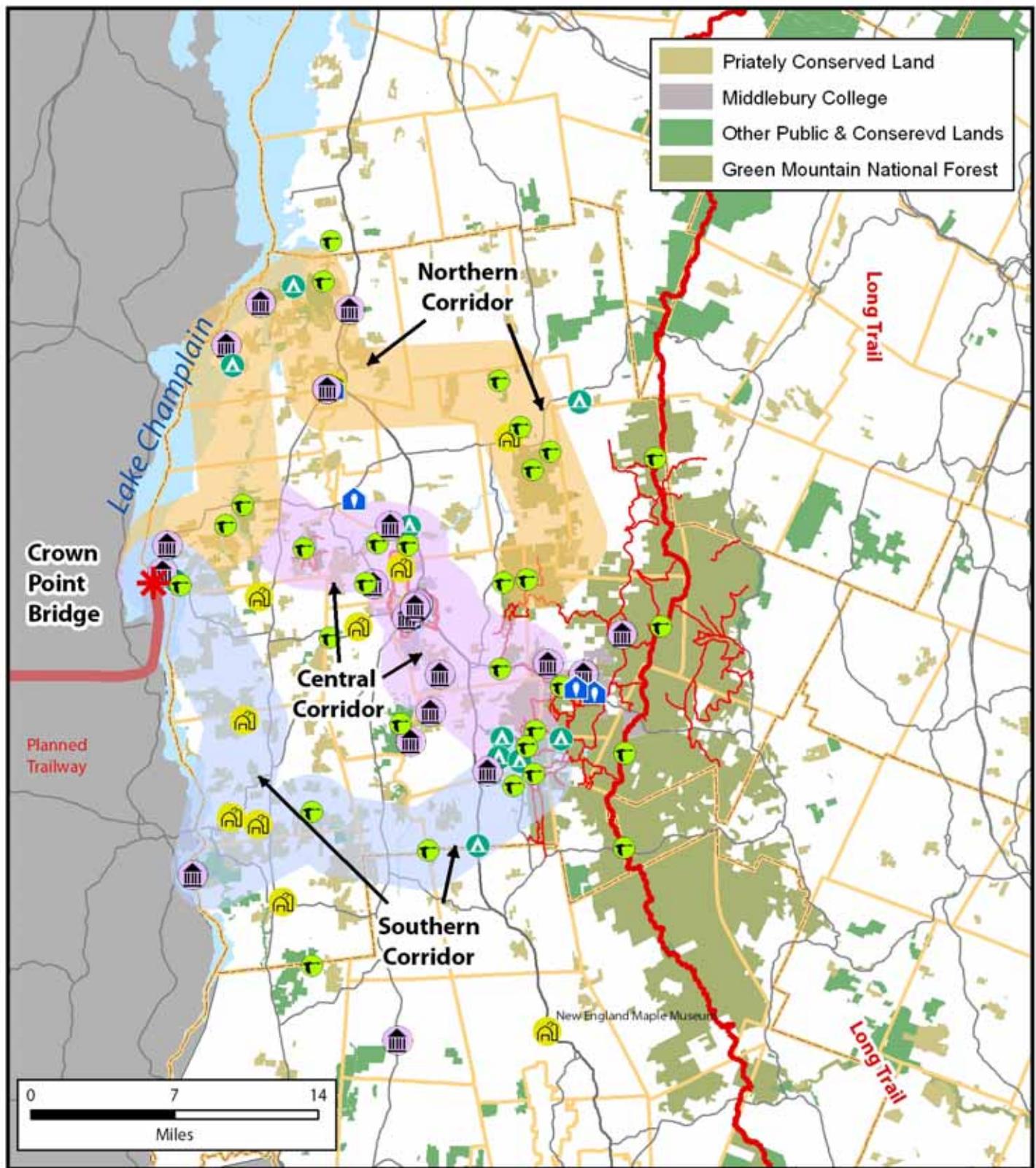
Roadways

County Boundary

Town Boundary

Appendix B – Figure 11

## Opportunity Corridors



December 2007 | Vermont State Plane (NAD 1983)

Data sources: ESRI, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Conserved Lands Database

County Boundary  
Town Boundary  
Roadways